

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W

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R 181411Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3624

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6814

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG SY UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN RIYADH MEETING

1. SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY LEONID KOLESNIKOV CALLED ON POLCOUNS MAY 18 AT HIS (KOLESNIKOV'S) REQUEST. IT WAS CLEAR FROM COURSE OF CONVERSATION THAT KOLESNIKOV HAD ONLY ONE PURPOSE WHICH WAS TO FIND OUT WHAT HE COULD ABOUT QUADRIPARTITE MEETING IN RIYADH BEGINNING MAY 19. KOLESNIKOV FIRST RAISED SUBJECT BY SAYING WESTERN AND SOCIALIST DIPLOMATS IN CAIRO ARE ALL SAYING U.S. IS BEHIND RIYADH MEETING. POLCOUNS RESPONDED THAT SINCE OBJECT OF MEETING IS PRESUMABLY TO RESTORE SEMBLANCE OF UNITY AMONG PRINCIPAL CONFRONTATION STATES, WHICH WOULD APPEAR IN ARABS' INTEREST, ARAB STATES HARDLY NEEDED OUTSIDE POWER TO SUGGEST IT. POLCOUNS ADDED THAT SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS IN PARTICULAR HAVE BOTH POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL STAKES IN STRENGTH AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARAB FRONT. KOLESNIKOV SEEMED UNCONVINCED.

2. LATER IN CONVERSATION KOLESNIKOV AGAIN MENTIONED RIYADH MEETING AND HOW PLEASED US MIGHT BE. POLCOUNS DID NOT DENY THAT US WOULD BE PLEASED IF EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN RAPPROCHEMENT
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WERE TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE IN LEBANON AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR

FURTHER FORWARD MOVEMENT IN PEACE PROCESS. HE ASSUMED
ALL NATIONS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PEACE IN THE AREA FELT
THE SAME WAY. KOLESNIKOV WAS COMPLETELY NON-COMMITAL ABOUT
RUSSIAN VIEW OF RIYADH MEETING.

3. KOLESNIKOV'S ONLY COMMENTS OF INTEREST WERE THAT SOVIET-EGYPTIAN
RELATIONS ARE RETURNING TO NORMAL AND SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE
THEIR ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT EGYPTIAN
PROPAGANDA AGAINST USSR HAD MARKEDLY DECREASED.
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